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THURSDAY

September 27, 2001

The  
University  
of Texas-Pan  
American



Religion in the  
face of tragedy

See story on page 8.



# 'STACKED DECK' ELECTION?



**Directions:** A sign directs voters to Building G on STCC's Pecan campus. Voters said that finding the polling stations and parking on the campus proved difficult.

**Opposition signs  
torn down from  
STCC campus**

See page 2

**Taxpayers: More  
taxes won't cure  
education ills**

See page 3

## Hidalgo County residents claim STCC bond election unfair

*Editor's Note: South Texas Community College president Shirley Reed was given ample opportunities to contribute her views to the following story. She refused.*

**By Ryan R. Henry**

*The Pan American*

McALLEN—Property owners in Hidalgo and Starr Counties are expressing their concerns that the upcoming South Texas Community College \$100 million bond election slated for September 29th has not been conducted fairly and that the deck has been stacked against those in Hidalgo and Starr Counties who oppose an increase in their property taxes.

Residents said that South Texas Community College officials created an unfair advantage by placing voting stations on its campuses. They added that STCC repeatedly misled the public by skewing statistics and by refusing to disclose facts surrounding the school and the election.

"The deck is stacked in the STCC bond election in the favor of the college," Mission resident Bill Rogers said. "This election certainly should not have been on the STCC campus where it's difficult for taxpayers to find the building or even parking. This creates a disadvantage for taxpayers."

Rogers said that for the bond elections to be fair to taxpayers it should have been conducted off campus and during the general election in November. "Holding the bond election in

See **ELECTION** on page 2



# STCC Bond Election

## Opposition signs on STCC campus torn down on Wednesday

By Ryan R. Henry  
The Pan American

Signs strongly opposing the South Texas Community College bond election were removed from the STCC campus Wednesday morning although school officials allowed "Vote Yes" signs to remain posted throughout the campus.

This came despite the fact that a memo was circulated by STCC president Shirley Reed on September 21 stating that "Non-public funds from donations or a political action committee can be used to advertise and encourage a "yes" or a "no" vote, which includes advertisements and the posting of notices on campus."

But according to several STCC students, the "Vote Yes" signs have been allowed on campus since the first day of early voting.

Hidalgo County Elections Department administrator Teresa Navarro said that a number of people have contacted her office with concerns about the way STCC campaigned for the bond election. She did not specify the identities of the callers or the

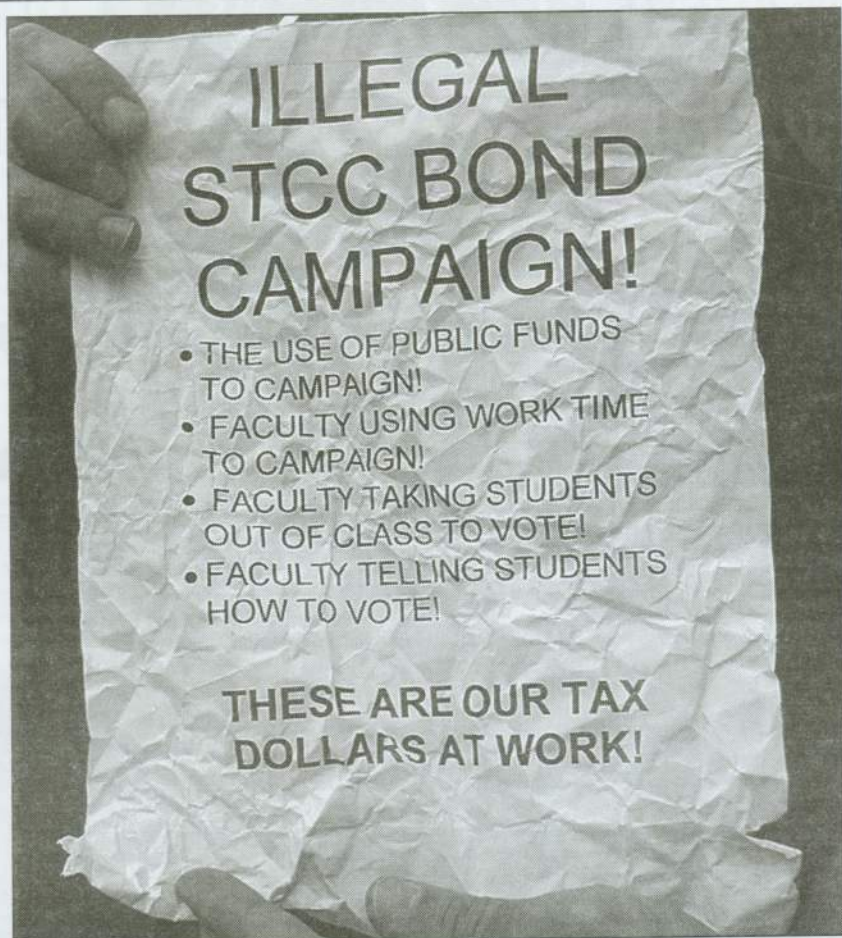
**But according to several STCC students, the "Vote Yes" signs have been allowed on campus since the first day of early voting.**

nature of their complaints.

"I have received some calls of concern," Navarro said. "Statutorily, I have done everything that I can do [about the complaints]. But there's nothing in the law that says that this election can be stopped."

Nonetheless, STCC student Efrain Villanueva, who favors the passage of the STCC bond issues, verified that campaign activities on the STCC campus have been questionable.

"In many points, the story ["Illegal Campaign?"] The Pan American, September 20, 2001], hit the nail on the head," Villanueva said. "[But] a lot of students and staff don't want to offend [STCC president Dr. Shirley Reed] by talking about it. However, I can say that now the school is trying to cover up the way it campaigned."



**Campaign Sign:** One of the removed opposition signs that was retrieved from an STCC trash can on Wednesday.

## Election: continued from Page 1

"Holding the bond election in November as part of the general election would have been more convenient for voters," Rogers said. "Yet this bond would've been less likely to pass."

Edinburg resident Julio Feliciano agreed.

"I have a problem with STCC not being up front with people. They say that they're asking for \$98.7 million, but that's not true. It's much more than that," Feliciano said. "We, the taxpayers, are at a disadvantage. The locations are unfair. The people with a vested interest in passing this bond issue — STCC — have the voting advantage."

Teresa Navarro, elections administrator at the Hidalgo

**Teresa Navarro, elections administrator at the Hidalgo County Elections Department, said that STCC was able to station polling places on its campuses because it met the statutory requirements. She said that although having election sites on the college campus may be unethical, it is legal.**

County Elections Department, said that STCC was able to station polling places on its campuses because it met the statutory requirements. She said that although having election sites on the college campus may be unethical, it is legal. She added that half of the 10 polling stations in Hidalgo County are on STCC campuses.

"That's ridiculous!" said

Feliciano. "It's not fair that STCC could choose the election sites and that they chose STCC campuses. Election's should be free, and having the polling places on STCC is a conflict of interest. This ruins any chance for a free election."

Bill Rogers expressed concern that the STCC polling stations lacked privacy.

"It depends on your

definition of privacy, but there were people walking all around you while you vote [at STCC]," Rogers said. "They could watch as you filled out the ballot at the table, and they could see the paper when you submitted it."

Though election administrator Navarro said that election judges would never allow people to stand by an election station, numerous STCC students alleged that STCC administrators escorted them out of their classes and watched over them as they voted. Several other students claim that school officials told them to vote "Yes" to the election. (See: "Illegal Campaign?" The Pan American, September 20, 2001)

Salvador Guerrero Jr., a taxpayer in Edinburg, said, "I'm

taking a class at STCC, and I think the bond proposals will pass because they [STCC] are taking teachers and students and asking them to vote for it. My teacher told me, 'Go vote. We [STCC] need the money.'"

McAllen resident Mark Krausher said that he is appalled by how unfair the STCC bond election has become for taxpayers. He compared the alleged STCC campaigning tactics to corrupt political practices he witnessed as an election judge during the 2000 presidential primary.

"[What STCC is doing] is much worse than people being trucked in to vote on an election," Krausher said. "These people are using tax money to pull people out of class."



# Taxed to death

## Hidalgo County residents: increasing taxes won't fix education

By Ryan R. Henry  
The Pan American

Hidalgo County residents argue that though education is vital to the area, increasing taxes add more stress to an already overly taxed populace. Furthermore, they contend that tax increases do not solve the real education problems in deep South Texas.

"We are being taxed too highly, and property tax has been going up," Mission resident Bill Rogers said. "I don't think this election is wise now considering the economy.

We have obligations to the military and to the [international] bridge that's being built."

Given the current level of taxes, Hidalgo County residents said they cannot afford to pay more.

"We pay a lot of taxes already," said Salvador Guerrero Jr., a taxpayer in Edinburg. "This bond election may be the cost of an extra pizza per month, but we are already paying for too many pizzas."

Other Hidalgo County residents made it clear that though they do not object to education, they feel that increasing taxes does not target

the underlying problem with education.

"How many times will we pay for a high school education?" McAllen resident Dick Sowell asked, referring to the number of remedial students at STCC. "I don't want to say too much — to be inflammatory. But I feel bad about education [in this area today]."

South Texas Community College claims that 40 percent of its students in its 2001 incoming freshman class were enrolled in at least one remedial course. Residents said they resent the fact that STCC

has never disclosed the percentage of total students who take remedial courses.

"No one opposes having a community college," said Peter P. Pranis Jr., a consultant in economic development and plant relocation in McAllen. "They just want the college degree to mean something and not just be the product of grade inflation. But more money for classrooms won't fix the problem. The problem is teaching methods."

Several residents said that they would not oppose additional taxes if it could help the problems with

education.

"[If we're] going out building buildings with the expectation that this is a cure-all for education problems. Forget it!" Pranis said. "You talk to people out there and everyone realizes that the system has been dumbed down. The issue of education is absolutely critical. I wouldn't care about the money if it helped education. But the problem with grades [kindergarten] through 12th [grade] isn't being addressed. In the Valley, we have great football stadiums but we don't care about reading."

## Does standardized testing cripple Valley education?

By Cesar Castillo  
The Pan American

Does standardized testing cripple education? Some Valley educators believe that it does. They add that many instructors are opting to teach lessons emphasizing exam preparation instead of a broad based curriculum.

Furthermore, some teachers charge that standardized tests create an institution that produces under-educated graduates.

Teachers say that classroom focus shifts toward ensuring successful scores on the TAAS (Texas Assessment of Academic Skills) exam, and that large failure rates threaten a school's accreditation and budget.

"We quit doing our job [teaching broad-based curriculums] because of all the threats to the [school] funding and our jobs," said Judy Kendrick a junior high school teacher from Sharyland.

Nonetheless, state officials are ready to spend additional time and money on a new exit exam.

State officials are replacing the TAAS test with a new standardized high school exit exam called the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), a reformed version of the

TAAS. State officials say that TAKS will include testing in science and social studies in addition to the areas already included in the TAAS.

Dr. Nora T. Cantu, Dean of Instruction at PSJA North High School, agrees that teachers are relying on materials that prepare students to pass TAAS rather than instructing students in the standard curriculum that the Texas Education Agency mandates.

"A basic skills test is not going to prepare students for the real world," Dr. Cantu said.

La Villa School District Superintendent Dr. Fernando Castillo said, "A student should be able to pass the TASP [Texas Academic Skills Program] in high school and not have to go to STCC [South Texas Community College] to pay for a class they've already taken [in high school]. The citizens of Hidalgo and Starr counties should not be paying an additional nine percent in taxes for duplicated services."

Dr. Castillo said that high schools should be more closely aligned to the academic skills that universities are seeking.

"High schools graduate students and leave them at the threshold of uncertainty," Castillo said.

### Hidalgo County Polling locations for STCC Bond Election on Saturday

**CITY OF ALAMO**  
Precinct No.: 44, 77, 91  
Polling Place: Alamo Middle School, Old Business 83, Alamo Texas 78516

**CITY OF ALTON**  
Precinct No.: 88, 89  
Polling Place: Senior Citizen Center, Hwy 107 & 5 Mile Line, Alton, Texas 78572

**CITY OF DONNA**  
Precinct No.: 3, 23  
Polling Place: City of Donna Boys & Girls Club, 301 S. 17th St. Donna, Texas 78537  
Precinct No.: 45, 55, 87  
Polling Place: W.A. Todd Jr. High School, 400 N. Daniel Salinas (493), Donna Texas 78537

**CITY OF EDCOUCH**  
Precinct No.: 16, 79  
Polling Place: Edcouch Fire Station, 200 North Hill Street, Edcouch, Texas 78538

**CITY OF EDINBURG**  
Precinct No.: 30  
Polling Place: Edinburg Fire Station, 212 W. McIntyre Street, Edinburg, Texas 78539  
Precinct No.: 31, 69  
Polling Place: Fountain Center, 1210 E. Kuhn, Edinburg, Texas 78539  
Precinct No.: 13, 52  
Polling Place: Canterbury Elementary School, 2821 West Canton Rd., Edinburg, Texas 78539  
Precinct No.: 14, 53  
Polling Place: Holy Family Church Parish Hall, 1302 East Samano, Edinburg, Texas 78539  
Precinct No.: 54, 74  
Polling Place: Cayetano Cavazos Elementary School, 1501 W. Freddy Gonzalez, Edinburg, Texas 78539

**CITY OF ELSA**  
Precinct No.: 15, 70, 90  
Polling Place: John F. Kennedy School, 500 West 9th Street, Elsa, Texas 78543

**CITY OF GRANJENO**  
Precinct No.: 12, 63  
Polling Place: Granjeno City Hall, 5-1/2 Miles South Shary Road, Granjeno, Texas 78572

**CITY OF HARGILL**  
Precinct No. 18

Polling Place: Hargill Elementary School, 1st & Wilson Street, Hargill, Texas 78549

**CITY OF HIDALGO**  
Precinct No.: 20  
Polling Place: Hidalgo Fire Station, 211 Esperanza Street, Hidalgo, Texas 78557

**CITY OF LA JOYA**  
Precinct No.: 11  
Polling Place: La Joya City Hall, 101 North Leo St., La Joya, Texas 78560

**CITY OF LA VILLA**  
Precinct No.: 17  
Polling Place: La Villa High School, Highway 107, La Villa, Texas 78562

**CITY OF LULL**  
Precinct No.: 68  
Polling Place: Capilla De San Jose Church, Corner of Flores & Treviño, Lull, Texas 78539

**CITY OF MCALLEN**  
Precinct No.: 7, 8  
Polling Place: Fields Elementary, 500 Dallas, McAllen, TX 78501  
Precinct No.: 26, 27  
Polling Place: South Texas Community College, Downtown Center, Cafeteria, 1001 South 16th, Street, McAllen, Texas 78501  
Precinct No.: 37, 66, 67  
Polling Place: Crockett Elementary School, 2112 N. Main Street, McAllen, Texas 78501  
Precinct No.: 47, 49  
Polling Place: South Texas Community College, Pecan Campus, Building G, Lobby, 29th Street Entrance, McAllen, Texas 78501

Precinct No.: 48  
Polling Place: Bonham Elementary School, 2400 Jordan Street, McAllen, Texas 78501  
Precinct No.: 65, 81  
Polling Place: Lincoln Jr. High, 1601 North 27th Street, McAllen, Texas 78501  
Precinct No.: 34, 62  
Polling Place: First Assembly of God-McAllen, 2401 N. McColl Rd., McAllen, Texas 78501

Precinct No.: 72, 73  
Polling Place: Rayburn Elementary School, 7000 N. Main Street, McAllen, Texas 78501

**CITY OF MCCOOK**  
Precinct No.: 24, 76  
Polling Place: McCook School, 11 Miles W. N. Hwy 281 & 16 Miles W. FM 491, McCook Texas 78503

**CITY OF MERCED**  
Precinct No.: 1, 32, 85, 86  
Polling Place: Mercedes City Hall, 400 South Ohio Ave., Mercedes Texas 78570  
Precinct No.: 46, 56  
Polling Place: Boy & Girls Club, 701 Mathis, Mercedes, Texas 78570

**CITY OF MISSION**  
Precinct No.: 9  
Polling Place: Kika De La Garza Bldg. (Amigos Del Valle), 921 East 12th Street, Mission, Texas 78572

Precinct No.: 10  
Polling Place: Slim Olivarez Community Center, 722 South Mayberry Avenue, Mission, Texas 78572  
Precinct No.: 28  
Polling Place: County Commissioner PRCT #3, 400 West 13th Street, Mission, Texas 78572  
Precinct No.: 38, 83, 84  
Polling Place: Sharyland Administration Office, 1106 N. Shary Road, Mission, Texas 78572

Precinct No.: 64, 75, 93  
Polling Place: Kika De La Garza Elementary School, 4-1/2 Miles N. La Homa Rd., Mission, Texas 78572  
Precinct No.: 80, 82, 94  
Polling Place: Our Lady of Guadalupe, 620 Dunlap Avenue, Mission, Texas, 78572

**CITY OF MONTE ALTO**  
Precinct No.: 33  
Polling Place: Monte Alto Elementary School, 1st & Elizabeth, Monte Alto, Texas 78543

**CITY OF PALMVIEW**  
Precinct No.: 29, 78  
Polling Place: Palmview City Hall, Mile 1 Road North, Palmview, Texas 78572

**CITY OF PENITAS**  
Precinct No.: 50  
Polling Place: Dr. Zamora Neighborhood Facility, \* Mile South FM 1427, Penitas, Texas 78576

**CITY OF PHARR**  
Precinct No.: 5

Polling Place: Las Milpas Community Center, 7101 South Cage Blvd., Pharr, Texas 78577  
Precinct No.: 6, 25  
Polling Place: Pharr City Hall, 100 South Aster, Pharr, Texas 78577  
Precinct No.: 36, 60  
Polling Place: Buell Elementary School, 218 East Juarez Ave., Pharr, Texas 78577  
Precinct No.: 35, 61  
Polling Place: Napper Elementary School, 903 Flag Ave., Pharr, Texas 78577

**CITY OF PROGRESO**  
Precinct No.: 40  
Polling Place: City of Progreso, Corner of FM1015 & Pam, Progreso, Texas 78579

**CITY OF SAN CARLOS**  
Precinct No.: 43  
Polling Place: San Carlos Elementary School, Hwy 107 & 3rd Street, San Carlos, Texas

**CITY OF SAN JUAN**  
Precinct No.: 4, 39, 59  
Polling Place: Austin Jr. High, South FM 2557, San Juan, Texas 78539

**CITY OF SAN MANUEL**  
Precinct No.: 19  
Polling Place: Saint Anna Church, 18 Miles North 281, San Manuel, Texas 78539

**CITY OF SULLIVAN CITY**  
Precinct No.: 51  
Polling Place: Sullivan City Hall, Highway 83, Sullivan City, Texas 78595

**CITY OF WESLACO**  
Precinct No.: 2, 57  
Polling Place: Weslaco City Hall, 500 Kansas Ave., Weslaco, Texas 78596  
Precinct No.: 21, 42, 58  
Polling Place: Clevelander-Herald Elementary School, 1601 W. Sugarcane Rd., Weslaco, Texas 78596  
Precinct No.: 22, 71  
Polling Place: S. F. Austin Annex, 214 West 4th Street, Weslaco, Texas 78596  
Precinct No.: 41, 92  
Polling Place: Sunrise Hill Park Pct.#1 Pavilion, Mile 11 Between Baseline & FM 1015, Weslaco, Texas 78596



# BRONC Talk

Is college for everyone?

—Anna Strowa



**Fernando Ornelas**  
**Economics**  
**Senior**

I think that everybody should make an attempt at college to determine whether they fit or not.

**Horacio Montelongo**  
**International Business**  
**Senior**

No, some people should not waste their time here [in college]. They should look for alternatives.



**Aaron Provencio**  
**Engineering**  
**Senior**

College is accessible to everyone, but some people may find it more convenient to pursue a short-term technical training.

**Rita Torres**  
**Communication Disorders**  
**Senior**

No, because you need the right motivation. Some students who don't belong in college misuse financial aid and end up failing. Yet those who are serious, but don't qualify, never get a chance to put that money to its intended use.



**Gilda Lopez**  
**Speech Pathology**  
**Junior**

It is available to everyone but not necessarily for everyone. Bill Gates for example.

## Letters to the editor

# Not everyone excels at math

To the editor

I am writing in response to Armando Caloca's letter entitled "unprepared for college algebra? Forget college," printed on September 18, 2001.

First, I'd like to say that I understand and appreciate our need for college algebra and all the branches of mathematics. I would be extremely happy, however, if I never had to take another math class in my life. I detest math, it gives me headaches. I am totally unprepared for college algebra, but I am not going to forget college!

I'd like to direct this next paragraph to Mr. Caloca: - Would you please get off your high horse. Obviously, you are one of those lucky people who excel at mathematics. Congratulations! I truly admire those who are able to grasp mathematical equations, jargon and concepts. My younger brother and two of my favorite

**Caloca also wrote that to "expect 'almost everyone' to attend college is an unrealistic expectation." News flash!! In this day and age not attending college or another sort of higher education is suicide.**

cousins are math wizards, but unlike you, Mr. Caloca, they don't look down their noses at me simply because math is not my forte.

In his letter Caloca stated his belief that God doesn't endow human beings with equal intellectual ability. Thank goodness for that.

Could you imagine a world where everyone had the same I.Q.? What about if everyone was artistically inclined?

Ugh, how boring! The most beautiful thing about each and everyone of us is our individuality. This individuality encompasses all of our abilities and our handicaps.

Caloca also wrote that to "expect 'almost everyone' to attend college is an unrealistic expectation." News flash!! In this day and age not attending college or another sort of higher education is suicide.

He also wrote that we should only educate those people who have the ability to be educated. Mr. Caloca, we all have the ability to be educated!

Sadly, it is obvious that Caloca is a self-centered, self righteous bigot. His letter is a shining example of his character. Thank the Almighty that there are so few people like him.

-- Vanessa Saenz,  
UTPA student

# Campus Calendar

## September/October

**Tuesday, September 25 through Friday, September 28** Student Health Services will hold a blood drive, "You Make the Difference," for United Blood Services from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The location of the event will be in the Shary Room at the University Library. More information will be posted through posters, fliers and e-mail. For more information, contact Student Health Services at 381-2511.

**Wednesday, September 26** Professor, Graduate School of Education The University of California Dr. Flora Ida Ortiz will lecture on: "Women in educational administration" at the Health Sciences west auditorium, Hshw 1.402, at 7:00 p.m. For additional information contact Connie de la Rosa at 316-7173.

**Thursday, September 27** Valley Symphony Orchestra Concert will be held in the Fine Arts Auditorium at 8 p.m. The public is invited. For more information contact the Symphony Office at 393-2293.

**Sunday, September 30** Faculty Artist Concert - Dr. John Raimo will perform on piano at the Fine Arts Auditorium at 3 p.m. General admission is \$3 and \$2 for UTPA students and senior citizens. For more information call the Department of Music at 381-3471.

**Wednesday, October 3** For the first time ever, the Texas Supreme Court will hear cases in the Rio Grande Valley. The UTPA courtroom session is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. at the Student Union Auditorium, followed by a noon luncheon at the

University Ballroom. The justices will visit classes in the afternoon before returning to Austin. Each case heard by the justices will be about 50 minutes long, with a 10 minute break between cases.

**Thursday, September 27 through Friday, October 12** The Clark Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of a new art exhibition entitled "Selections from the Permanent Collection". The exhibit consists of paintings, prints and sculpture from the Charles and Dorothy Clark collection, and was made possible through the generosity of their son, Kirk Clark. The art exhibit will be held at the Clark Gallery in the Fine Arts Building. For more information contact the Art Gallery at 381-2655 or by e-mail at galleries@panam.edu

**Sunday, October 9** A reception with Mr. Kirk Clark is scheduled from 12 p.m. til 1 p.m. in the Clark Gallery. The work shown will be very diverse. The exhibit consists of both realistic and non-objective art by both European and American artists. Some of the artists represented will be Man Ray, Honore Daumier, Jakob Bill, Keiko Minami, Francis Picabia, Roy Lichtenstein, and Victor Vasarely. For more information contact the Art Gallery at 381-2655 or by e-mail at galleries@panam.edu.

**Friday, September 28** A Christian Response to the New War A Presentation and Discussion with Dr. Jack Stotts will be held at the First Presbyterian Church Edinburg on 300 W. Cano in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon. For more information call Presbyterian Fellowship at UTPA at 383-1175.



The Pan American View

# 'Fair and honest and ethical'

## Evidence suggests that coercion and censorship prevented a free and open bond election

Our recent report on the concerns of a number of South Texas Community College students who questioned the legalities of the upcoming \$100 million bond election (See: "Illegal Campaign?" *The Pan American* September 20, 2001) generated some interesting responses. We received numerous E-mails and other communiqués from current and former STCC students, Hidalgo County residents, and one STCC faculty member.

One letter writer said, "I don't go to [STCC] to be forced into a [voting] booth. I come here to learn, and the moment I [get] on campus I'm swamped by 'Vote Yes' for the bond."

Another letter writer said, "I think some students think that voting for the bond will get them in good [standing] with their teachers."

The writer who identified himself as an STCC faculty member said, "The [pro-bond] fliers that are posted around campus were placed in accordance with Texas election codes by an independent campaign committee by the name of 'Vote Yes to STCC.'"

We found the above statement interesting because the name of this "independent" campaign committee was originally called "STCC's Campaign To Vote Yes." However, we should note that no independent campaign committee name appears on the pro-bond fliers distributed on all STCC campuses. This is blatantly illegal.

Furthermore, we were informed that STCC administrators have a strict policy forbidding any and all "non-STCC generated" fliers from appearing on campus. Therefore, we have a question: If those pro-bond fliers were not published by STCC, then why—given the above policy—were they allowed on the campus? Add to that, why were other fliers that encouraged STCC students to vote against the bond taken off walls by STCC personnel and thrown into trash cans?

It would seem that STCC's administration employed a double standard when it came to its own rules and regulations. They allowed the posting of fliers that were in favor of the bond, but destroyed fliers that opposed the bond.

The faculty member raised an even more disturbing point. He said, "I wonder why a student paper at one institu-

**STCC's administrators claim to hold public education at the forefront. But it seems that their definition of education is fashioned only to suit themselves. Time and again, we learned that important and factual information that should have been disseminated to the public so that they could make an educated decision on how to vote was either withheld or altered.**

tion is so fixated on negative reporting about a separate institution."

We found that remark disturbing because this STCC faculty member does not seem to understand the following:

First, *The Pan American* is a student newspaper. While we cannot comment on STCC's censorship toward student publications, we can tell you that *The Pan American* student newspaper is paid for by student service fees and is autonomous from The University of Texas-Pan American.

Second, and perhaps most disturbing, was the overall tone of this STCC faculty member's letter. He seems oblivious to the fact that journalists consider it an important duty to inform the public about the conduct of any governmental institution that appears to be engaged in either unethical or illegal activities. Perhaps this faculty member should be reminded that we in America hold the election process sacrosanct. A fair and honest election is the very heart of a free and open Democracy.

All of this brings up another important point. A memorandum dated September 21, 2001 and issued to all STCC faculty and staff by its president Shirley Reed states the following: "It is our responsibility to provide the opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to exercise their constitutional right and American privilege of voting in a free and open election process."

We find it disingenuous at the very least when Reed spins those important words, "free and open election process"—because all the evidence suggests that the bond issue campaign on STCC campuses was coercive (not free) and censored (not open).

Maybe our point would be made clearer if we quote Hidalgo County Election Department Administrator Teresa Navarro who told *The Pan American*, "Having polling stations on

STCC's campus might be unethical but it's legal. [STCC] fulfilled all the regulations to have those polling places."

And therein lies the rub: We seem to have at STCC a group of savvy administrators who know how to twist and bend the rules just enough to guarantee them victory regardless of the overall costs—both in terms of its impact on the taxpaying community and the lessons in ethics and morals it teaches its students.

STCC's administrators claim to hold public education at the forefront. But it seems that their definition of education is fashioned only to suit themselves. Time and again, we learned that important and factual information that should have been disseminated to the public so that they could make an educated decision on how to vote was either withheld or altered.

Of course, all of this does not negate the fact that the people of Hidalgo and Starr Counties need a community college. And if there is a treasure at the college it is the faculty. Every faculty member we spoke to, whether those who favor the bond or those who oppose the bond, seemed genuinely dedicated to quality education. Many faculty, however, lamented the fact that STCC's administration has historically emphasized growth instead of quality. As one faculty member explained, "[Administrators] treat the college like a business instead of a place of higher learning."

It becomes easy then to understand why those in command at STCC, along with a cohort of bankers, developers, politicians and fellow bureaucrats, have been so fervent in their quest to insure a victory at the ballot box. One hundred million dollars spread over a table makes for a pie too scrumptious to resist.

And yet, those words "fair and honest



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and ethical" keep coming up. As one Hidalgo County resident put it, "I just hope that at least a few members of the [STCC] board of directors can rise above all of this and say, 'What was done at the campuses was not only unfair, it was un-American.' And then maybe they'll say, if we want the money let's void this campaign and start all over again."

To which we reply, Dare we hold our breaths?





# Campus

briefs

## Twelve recognized as Notable Valley Hispanics

Special to The Pan American

EDINBURG - The University of Texas-Pan American Friends of the Library will recognize 12 Rio Grande Valley leaders as "Notable Valley Hispanics" in a special ceremony Sunday, September 30.

The seventh annual "Notable Valley Hispanics" ceremony, which coincides with National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15), will be at the UTPA Media Theater at 2 p.m.

Inductees will have a biography, photograph and items representing their lives in display at the UTPA Library.

The 12 "Notable Valley Hispanics" for 2001 are Alonzo Cantu of McAllen, construction; Homero Gallegos of McAllen, counselor; Mayor Baldemar Garza of Rio Grande City, civic affairs; Yvonne "Bonnie" Gonzalez of Mercedes, education and health; Carlota M. Gutierrez of Edinburg, health and education; and Marcela Hernandez of Weslaco, health.

Also to be honored is Blanca Estela Meckel of McAllen, MADD; Hector "Tito" Palacios of San Juan, community service; Alma Irene Pena of Weslaco, youth; Judge Rose Guerra Reyna of McAllen, community service; Delisia T. Rios of Mission, migrant workers; and Dr. Robert Sepulveda of Weslaco, medical education.

Inductees must have been born or

now live in the Valley and involved in either civic and/or humanitarian activities.

"We are trying to recognize the important people, as well as the people who might be otherwise overlooked," said George Gause, UTPA Special Collections librarian. "I was very impressed to see the large number of people nominated again this year. The number of nominees just seems to be growing every year."

Last year's recipients were Jose Luis Betancourt of Corpus Christi, retired U.S. Navy rear admiral; David Champion of Weslaco, Hispanic music events; Irma Garcia of Mission, community service; Mariella Goren of McAllen, school district and civic organizations; Francisco Guajardo of Edinburg, Llano Grande Research Project; Ricardo Gutierrez of Rio Grande City, government and community activities; Roy De Leon of Mercedes, civic organizations; L. Aron Pena of Edinburg, legal and church groups; and Marion Reyna of McAllen, physical education.

Also, Alejo Salinas Jr. of Edinburg, educator; Ofelia de la Santo of Edinburg, lawyer and civic organizations; Mary Lou Trevino of McAllen, community groups; Rosa Valencia of McAllen, civic programs; Iida Vasquez of Weslaco, church and community activities; and Miguel Wise, state representative and civic organizations.

## Texas Supreme Court hosts UTPA session

Special to The Pan American

EDINBURG - For the first time ever, the Texas Supreme Court will hear cases in the Rio Grande Valley during an October visit.

The Court will hear cases October 2 at The University of Texas Brownsville and October 3 at The University of Texas-Pan American. The UTPA courtroom session is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. at the Student Union auditorium. The Court then will attend a reception with the Hidalgo County Bar Association, and some justices will attend an afternoon business law class before returning to Austin.

The justices will hear at UTPA two civil cases originating in the Valley. Each case is expected to be about 50 minutes long, with a 10-minute break between. No witnesses will testify, and the Court's decision generally will state a legal principle that may be unclear in Texas law and wither send the case back for another proceeding or uphold the lower court's decision.

The Supreme Court of Texas is composed of a Chief Justice and eight justices. It has statewide, final appellate jurisdiction in all civil and juvenile cases. Most of the cases heard by this court are appeals from an appellate ruling by one of the 14 intermediate Courts of Appeals in Texas.

The current Chief Justice is Thomas R. Phillips, who has served in that role since 1988. The other justices are Wallace Jefferson, Harriet O'Neill, Deborah G. Hankinson, James A. Baker, Priscilla R. Owen, Craig T. Enoch, Nathan L. Hecht and Xavier Rodriguez. Rodriguez was appointed in late August by Governor Rick Perry.

Until Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1997, the Court was prohibited from holding sessions outside Austin. The Valley trip is the seventh time it has conducted sessions away from Austin.

"We intend these trips to be educational," Phillips said. "Too few people understood how the legal system works and fewer can travel to Austin to see the system work at this level."

## Summaries of cases to be heard at UTPA

### Cameron County vs. Charlene Mills Brown From Cameron County and the 13th District Court of Appeals, Corpus Christi

The issue is whether the county and the Texas Department of Transportation waived its governmental immunity in a lawsuit claiming that non-functioning street lights along the Queen Isabella Causeway led to a fatal accident. In this case, the driver died after his truck struck the land divider on the bridge between the mainland and South Padre Island, then was hit by another car. At

the time of the collision, a third or more of lights along the causeway were not working.

The trial court ruled in favor of the state and county on their efforts to dismiss the suit based on immunity. The court of appeals reversed, concluding maintenance of the lights was not a discretionary function that would make the government immune.

### Texas State Bank vs. Rutilo Vargas Amaro From Hidalgo County and the 13th District Court of Appeals, Corpus Christi

The issue is whether a district court with supervisory authority over a trust can absolve the trustee by a declaratory judgment of all liability in handling the trust. One Hidalgo County district court created the trust in 1989 for Vargas from money he received in a personal-injury lawsuit, finding him to be incapacitated. In 1997, another Cameron County district court granted Vargas and his spouse an uncontested divorce, and he then asked the first court to terminate the trust and distribute the money, claiming he had regained capacity.

The trustee, Texas State Bank, contested and sought mental and physical examinations Vargas refused. Vargas then got to the second district court and order that he had regained his capacity, and he moved to drop his original effort to terminate the trust (which had been filed in the court with

jurisdiction over the trust).

Vargas also demanded the bank give up the trust money, claiming the trust legally ended once the second court found he had regained his capacity. In response, the bank asked the original court for a declaratory judgment on the issue of whether the trust terminated by operation of law.

The next month, Vargas sued the bank in a third district court for fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, negligence and deceptive trade practices. In the bank's suit for a declaratory judgment, the court rejected Vargas' pleas that it did not have jurisdiction in the case, terminated the trust and declared the bank was not liable on Vargas' claims over handling the trust. The court of appeals affirmed but held the trial court lacked authority to absolve the bank of the liability claims.

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# Religion

## Americans to recent e

**R**ecent terrorist attacks on the United States have ushered in a new age of religious faith. As a result, various denominations are attempting to explain the significance of a tragedy that has affected all Americans.

The religion of Islam has suffered greatly in light of what has occurred. The alleged hijackers of the planes that caused damage in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. are believed to have been Muslims. Yet several prominent Muslim Americans have denounced the acts of terrorism while expressing a sincere love for the United States. "The word 'Islam' means peace," said Mohammed Y. Farooqui, president of the Islamic Society of South Texas. "The Islamic religion condemns what has happened. It was a very horrible and evil act by a handful of people. Islam, like any other religion, con-

**"As people feel our need for strength, for deliverance, health, and church..."**

demns killing in the name of religion or property."

During this period of mourning, Farooqui believes in the strength in their faith. "We will pray. That is the time," he said.



# ion n the face of Tragedy

of all faiths strive to find answers  
vents through their sacred beliefs

By J. Rene Martinez \ *The Pan American*

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-Father Jerry Frank  
Holy Spirit Parish

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Muslims will seek  
faith. "[Muslims] will be  
go to the mosque and  
best we can do at this

The Catholic community has also felt the impact of the tragedy. Father Jerry Frank, a priest at Holy Spirit Parish in McAllen, has noticed more parishioners attending mass. "As people sense their vulnerability, they'll be coming to church more. That's the way [people] are. We feel our need for God, for strength, for power, for deliverance, for rescue, for health, and we turn to the church," he said.

The Catholic Church teaches forgiveness and promotes peace, but Frank said it is normal for people to react to the terrorist attacks with feelings of anger, frustration and fear. Frank tells anyone who might ask, "How could God let this happen?" to remember that mankind has been given the gift of free will. "God made us free - free to love, free to love Him, free to love one another. The only way we can be free is if we have the power within us to do acts of love or acts of hate. The evil doesn't come from God. It comes from our unwillingness to cooperate with God," Frank said.

These sentiments were echoed in an e-mail correspondence from Rex Holt, head pastor at Baptist Temple in McAllen. Baptist Temple remains ready to meet the counseling needs for those having difficulty coping with the tragedy. Holt stated, "[Baptist Temple's] attendance has increased over these past two weeks since the attacks. Churches across America have reported increased attendance and interest with spiritual things. Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York reported 700 first time conversions to Christ the Sunday after September 11. I believe the good attendance will continue. America has awakened to the need for eternal security, and [Americans want] to build their lives around something more than money, success, prosperity."

Scott Stripling, a pastor at Christian Fellowship Church of McAllen, admitted members of his congregation were experiencing a variety of emotions concerning the attacks on the United States. "As

Americans, we are mad," Stripling stated in an e-mail correspondence. "As Christians, we see a great opportunity to reach people. [People] are always open to change in times of crisis. We are praying for the conversion of the Muslim nations."

Stripling believes the tragedy is a wake up call from God. "It has not escaped [God's] notice that we murder 6,000 of our own each day through abortion. We must repent!" he stated.

Rabbi Frank Joseph of Temple Bethel in Brownsville said the Jewish community was shocked by the terrorist attacks. "God was not responsible for [the attacks]. Evil human beings were responsible. This world is a good world," Joseph said. He further stated that the key to preventing future catastrophes is to increase the literacy rate in the United States.

No religion can fully explain the reasons behind tragic events. Still, religion can be a source of comfort and hope for people during times of need.



# Graduate scores highest in nation on ASCP exam

## Special to The Pan American

EDINBURG - Wendy Gillum, a December 2000 graduate of the University of Texas-Pan American, recently received the highest score in the nation on the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) National Certification exam.

Gillum took the ASCP certification exam in March, during the first quarter administration of the exam, along with 327 other students and received a score of 800. The second highest score was 749.

"I wasn't expecting to get such a high score because I thought the exam was difficult," Gillum said. "But I feel pretty honored."

Gillum was part of the Clinical Laboratory Science Program (CLS), a 15-month allied health professional program designed to prepare students to become clinical laboratory scientists or medical technologists.

After two years of attending school at Trinity University in San Antonio, Gillum transferred to UTPA where she enrolled in the CLS program. From the beginning of her college career, she always knew what she wanted to do.

"I always wanted to do something in the medical field, and working in the

labs was the most exciting part about the program," she said. "It is a challenging program because you have to be in class all day, but it's well worth it."

"The faculty of the clinical laboratory science program are very proud of Wendy's accomplishments," said Karen Chandler, department coordinator and professor. "This is an exceptional achievement, and graduating from the clinical laboratory science program will prepare her to fulfill many exciting roles."

Gillum is currently working as a clinical laboratory scientist at Valley Baptist Medical Center in Harlingen where she tests various specimens provided by doctors.

CLS practitioners or medical technologists perform laboratory tests, which aids in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. The CLS professional is also responsible for confirming the accuracy of test results and reporting laboratory findings to the physician. They may also evaluate patient test results to determine the need for follow-up or confirmatory testing.

For more information on the CLS program, contact Karen Chandler at 318-5269 or through e-mail at [kchandler@panam.edu](mailto:kchandler@panam.edu).

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## A Christian Response to the New War



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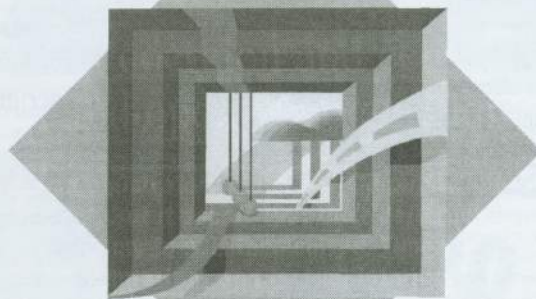
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With many publications,  
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# Eladio's Picks

Week Three

## Eladio's Picks Record

■ Last Week: 7-7      ■ Overall Record: 17-12  
■ Percentage: .500      ■ Overall Percentage: .586



Eladio Jaimez  
The Pan American

### Green Bay at Carolina

The Pack looks hot right now. The Panthers looked good in week one, but didn't play the same last week. Favre and co. will pack some panther meat this Sunday.

Packers by 9

### Indianapolis at New England

Peyton Manning and Marvin Harrison are starting to look more and more like Troy and Michael or Joe and Jerry. If they stay healthy who knows what can happen.

Colts by 10

### Kansas City at Washington

Marty Schottenheimer hosts his old team. Maybe they can bring him some luck since they haven't been living up to their expectations either.

Chiefs by 1

### Miami at St. Louis

Here's a great match up between two great defenses. The Rams may have the upper hand on offense, but Miami is playing flawless football. Another Game of the Week. Adv. Miami

Fins by 3

### New Orleans at NY Giants

Welcome home! The Giants play at home for the first time since the attacks on the World Trade Center. Emotions will be high. The Giants will tower over the Saints

Giants by 6

### Pittsburgh at Buffalo

The Steelers had a week off, and the Bills just wish they could get some kind of offense going.

Steelers by 6

### Tampa Bay at Minnesota

The week off gave the Bucs enough time to figure out what they did wrong against the Cowboys. The Vikings may need the whole season to figure out their problem.

Bucs by 7

### Atlanta at Arizona

The Cardinals can get their first win if they know how to handle the Falcons. The Falcons aren't that good of a team. A close one, but the Cards win.

Cardinals by 3

### Baltimore at Denver

What the hell happened to the Ravens. They got stunned. No big deal. They have to recoup quick though. If they lose this week and the next against the Titans they can fall to 1-3 quickly. It could happen.

Broncos by 6

### Cincinnati at San Diego

Maybe this should be the Game of the Week. It's your call. I have to go with experience., and Doug Flutie has plenty of it.

Chargers by 6

### Cleveland at Jacksonville

The Browns have been a pleasant surprise so far. With the way the NFL has played out the last two seasons, why should anything surprise us. After all what do they say, "On any given Sunday." Upset special.

Browns by 1

### Seattle at Oakland

The Raiders are just too tough. Especially at home. Big Boy's team wins again.

Raiders by 7

### Dallas at Philadelphia

Last year Duce Staley ran all over the Cowboys. He may play, but he's hurt. Advantage Dallas? Not in Philly

Eagles by 3

### San Francisco at NY Jets

Mayor Giuliani told New Yorkers to move on with their lives. What better way than with back-to-back games at home, and two wins.

Jets by 7

**Y**ou can send your football comments to Eladio via e-mail at [mamboking3@hotmail.com](mailto:mamboking3@hotmail.com).

## Big XII News

### Nebraska signal caller leads short list of football honorees

#### Special to The Pan American

Nebraska quarterback Eric Crouch of Omaha, Neb., joins Iowa State senior RB Ennis Haywood of Dallas, Texas, Texas Tech senior defensive back Paul McClendon of Stamford, Texas, and Kansas State wide receiver-KR Aaron Lockett of Tulsa, Okla., as Southwestern Bell Big 12 Conference Football Players of the Week (Co-Offense, Defense, Special Teams) in voting by a select panel of media covering the Big 12 for games played on Sept. 20-22.

Crouch turned in a standout performance in Nebraska's 48-3 victory over Rice on Sept. 20. In just over one half of action, he completed 9-of-11 passes for 165 yards and three touchdowns while nearly topping the 100-yard mark on the ground as well. He finished the evening with 97 rushing yards on 12 carries and a pair of scores. Crouch threw touchdown passes of 37, 42 and 11 yards, while scoring on runs of six and 25 yards to account for five of the team's seven touchdowns. In the first quarter alone, the senior accounted for 143 of NU's 184 yards on just five touches, as the Huskers built a 21-0 advantage.

Haywood earned Co-Offensive Player recognition after his 33-carry, 219-yard, 6.6 average per, two touchdown rushing effort last Saturday against Ohio. Haywood almost single-handedly took over the offense in the fourth quarter after Ohio

scored 14 unanswered points and helped the Cyclones run out the clock in the 31-28 victory with his ground work. It was third 200-yard-plus rushing game in his last nine regular-season appearances, and he just missed topping his career high of 241 yards on 39 tries against Baylor in 2000.

McClendon scored defensive touchdowns in his second consecutive game after he returned a fumble for a TD in the season opener against New Mexico. He had two defensive TDs in the win over North Texas last Saturday with a six-yard fumble return and a 50-yard pass interception return for another score. McClendon is tied for the team lead in scoring with 18 points after two contests, and he registered four total tackles last Saturday in the Red Raiders' 42-14 triumph over UNT.

Lockett returned the second-half kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown in Kansas State's 64-0 win over New Mexico State on Sept. 22. It was the first kickoff return for a touchdown in Lockett's career and brought his all-time total to four returns for scores (including three punt return TDs last year). He also ended the game with 211 all-purpose yards (97 on kickoff returns, 60 receiving, 51 on punt returns and 3 rushing) and moved into second place on the KSU career all-purpose yards list. It was the first kickoff return for a touchdown by a Wildcat since 1997 and only the seventh at K-State since 1936.

### Aggie freshman honored for scoring; offensive, defensive players recognized

#### Special to The Pan American

Nebraska's Christine Latham, Oklahoma's Christen Secrest, and Texas A&M's Linsey Johnson were named Big 12 Soccer Players of the Week, the conference office announced Tuesday.

Latham was named Offensive Player of the Week after scoring four goals in two games last weekend to help the third-ranked Huskers to wins over Northern Iowa and Evansville. The junior forward from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, booted her first goal of the season at 0:54 against UNI and added the game-winner at 9:49 en route to the 3-1 win.

On Sunday, Latham rifled in the eventual game-winner at 29:46 and headed in her fourth goal of the weekend at 42:29 off a long cross from the corner. She has scored 10 points on four goals and two

assists for the 5-0 Huskers this season.

Secrest was named Defensive Player of the Week. The senior defender from Norman, Okla., has anchored a defense that has allowed just one goal in seven games this season, including two home shutouts last weekend. Oklahoma is currently 6-1 on the year and is regionally ranked.

Johnson was named Newcomer of the Week after scoring seven points in three games last week for 3-2 and ninth-ranked Texas A&M. The freshman forward from Midland, Texas, scored three goals and added an assist while taking 11 shots. Johnson has scored a goal in each of the Aggies' five games and also has a pair of assists for a point total of 12. She leads or is tied for the lead in every A&M offensive category: goals (5), assists (2), points (12), and shots (20)



# 2001-02 Home Schedule

## Lady Broncs host tournament, boast 15 game home schedule

Nov. 2	Houston Jaguars *	7:00pm
Nov. 16	Lady Bronc Classic (Ark-Little Rock)	7:00pm
Nov. 17	(Southeast Missouri State or Montana #)	4:00pm
Dec. 4	Texas-El Paso	7:00pm
Dec. 13	Texas A&M-Kingsville #	6:00pm
Dec. 28	Oral Roberts	7:00pm
Dec. 30	Schreiner	1:00pm
Jan. 3	St. Mary's	7:00pm
Jan. 5	Incarnate Word	7:00pm
Jan. 10	Centenary #	6:00pm
Jan. 17	New Mexico State #	6:00pm
Jan. 19	Gardner-Webb #	6:00pm
Jan. 21	Lipscomb	7:00pm
Feb. 4	Arkansas State	7:00pm
Feb. 23	Texas A&M-Corpus Christi	7:00pm

\* Exhibition Game # Doubleheader with Broncs

### Special to The Pan American

It is with great excitement and anticipation that The University of Texas-Pan American

Department of Intercollegiate Athletics announces the 2001-02 Women's Basketball schedule.

The Lady Broncs boast a 15-game home schedule that is sure to impress the fans. Coach Nicholls and her staff are looking to build upon their record setting season win total of 11 NCAA victories in the upcoming 2001-02 season.

For the first time in UTPA history, Karin Nicholls and her staff will be hosting the UTPA Lady Bronc Tip-Off Classic. This tournament will feature the University of Arkansas-Little Rock (SunBelt Conference), Southeast Missouri State University (Ohio Valley Conference) and 2001

Big Sky Conference Tournament finalist, University of Montana. The tournament will be held at the UTPA Fieldhouse November 16th and 17th.

The Lady Broncs will play 15 home dates in all with an exhibition against the Houston Jaguars on November 4th at 7:30pm in the UTPA Fieldhouse. Also included on the home schedule are UTEP, Oral Roberts, New Mexico State, Arkansas State and independent rival, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

"I am extremely excited about our upcoming schedule. We were able to put together a schedule

that will give us 15 home games including the first-ever Lady Bronc Tip-Off Classic," said second year Head Coach, Karin Nicholls.

When the Lady Broncs hit the road they will face off against some of the best teams in the country including Weber State, Wyoming, Rhode Island, Iowa, and Kent State. UTPA will be participating in the University of Iowa Tournament in Iowa City on December 7th and 8th. The Lady Broncs will open against host Iowa on the 7th at a time to be announced.

"We have some high quality opponents that were 2001 NCAA tournament teams last year including Iowa, Kent State and Oral Roberts," said Nicholls. "This schedule will give us a chance to measure ourselves early against some great teams, while hopefully allowing us to turn the corner as a program".

Nicholls enters her second season as the Lady Bronc Head Coach. Also returning is her top assistant, Carol Russell. New to this year's staff are Kate Galligan and Megan Kahn. Galligan comes to UTPA from The University of Pittsburgh where she was an assistant for three seasons. Kahn played for Nicholls at Truman State and served as the Assistant Academic Coordinator in the UTPA Athletic Department while also assuming the role of Administrative Assistant with the Lady Broncs.

## Vaughn pleased with progress, strives for top ten finish at regionals

**Eladio Jaimez**  
The Pan American

The men's and women's cross country teams came home with more than just a second place finish at the University of Houston Invitational.

First year head coach Ricky Vaughn said one thing he saw last week in Houston impressed him. The team's progress.

"We're in better shape," Vaughn said. "We raced harder and ran good as a group. I think we ran harder than we did in Corpus [Islander Opening Splash]."

Both teams finished second and senior Perla Rios-Handy finished second individually. She posted a time of 17:30 in the three mile course. She finished 13 seconds behind the winner, Jessie Oaks

of the University of Houston.

For the men, houston native Israel Arroyo finished eighth with a time of 21:36 in the four mile course. Junior Martin Longoria of Edcouch-Elsa finished ninth with a time of 22:09.

Vaughn said improving their running form and getting in better shape were some of their short-term goals.

Vaughn set a long-term goal when he was hired. He wanted to take his teams to the NCAA South Central Regional Championships in College Station on November 10.

"I want our runners to give us everything at that meet," he said. "We want to have a good showing at College Station."

The Broncs cross country teams haven't competed in the regional meet in the past few years.

Vaughn made it one of his priorities to

schedule the regional meet when he was hired last month.

"This was my first commitment I made," he said. "I want to build a tough cross country team here at UTPA."

Vaughn said a good cross country program would help the track team when it comes to long distance.

"We want to be able to run good, but we also want to get the experience," he added.

Vaughn said any experience gained this year will help the team next season and put them in contention for regionals.

"I think this year we have a chance of finishing in the top 10 at regionals," Vaughn said. "If we do that we would obtain a huge goal and next year we'll have the possibility of advancing to nationals."

Vaughn's cross country teams have a

bright future. Rios-Handy is the only senior on both teams.

A meet originally scheduled for this weekend was cancelled due to lack of competitors.

Former head coach Dan Laufer failed to finalize the scheduling before he left for Loyola in Chicago. When Vaughn arrived at UTPA, he couldn't find any schools with that weekend open to fill the slots.

Both teams will, however, travel to College Station on October 13 for the Texas A&M University Invitational.

"We can see what the course is like and get a feel for it," Vaughn said of running on the track the regional championships will be held on.

UTPA will host Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in a one-on-one meet on November 3.



# Classic clash between Fighting Irish and Aggies, Longhorns and Runnin' Rebels headline Big XII football this weekend

## Special to The Pan American

Four key conference games, a classic Texas A&M-Notre Dame matchup in College Station, Texas, and a newly-scheduled Oklahoma State-Northwestern State bout fill up the Big 12 Conference football landscape Saturday.

Many eyes will be turned toward Norman, Okla., Saturday for an 11 a.m. (CDT) encounter between defending national champion Oklahoma and Top 10-ranked Kansas State on ABC-TV (check local listings).

There is just as much interest in the Nebraska at Missouri game (The Big 12 Game of the Week) on syndicated regional television at 11:30 a.m., from Columbia, Mo., as well as the Baylor at Iowa State Big 12 opener for those two teams at 1 p.m.

Texas Tech travels to Texas for a national telecast Saturday at 6 p.m. (CDT) on Fox Sports Net to round out the conference schedule. Texas A&M's clash with Notre Dame is set for a 2:30 p.m. (CDT) ABC regional telecast, while Northwestern State treks to Oklahoma State for a 7 p.m. (CDT) contest.

Big 12 division leaders Colorado (North) and Texas A&M (South) get a brief respite from league activity before returning to conference play on Oct. 6. The Buffaloes and Kansas are idle Saturday.

**NOTRE DAME (0-2) at TEXAS A&M (3-0, 1-0)** 2:30 p.m. (CDT), Kyle Field (82,600), College Station, Texas, ABC Regional Telecast

NOTES: This is the initial series game at Kyle Field as the teams have met three previous times in the Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Classic at Dallas. Notre Dame won its season opener in '00 over A&M en route to a 9-3 season and berth in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. A&M became the last team as a current Southwest Conference member to win a Cotton Bowl Classic with a 35-10 victory over Notre Dame in 1988. The Aggies are 1-3 (all in the ND series) against the six current NCAA Division I-A independents while Notre Dame is 36-17-2 vs. all members of the Big 12. The Fighting Irish lost 27-10 at Nebraska on Sept. 8 in their last meeting with a foe from this circuit.

### Texas A&M Quick Hits

Slocum has guided Texas A&M to 10 bowls in 12 seasons, and his 1994 squad closed 10-0-1. The Aggies raised \$150,000-plus for United States relief efforts from the Sept. 11 tragedy with red, white and blue shirt sales for a special "Stand with America" tribute last week. A&M has won its Big 12 opener in four of the first six years, with the only losses coming to Colorado 24-10 in 1996 and 21-19 at Texas Tech in 1999. Texas A&M set a record with 26 consecutive conference wins in the SWC from 1990-94.

### Notre Dame Quick Hits

The Fighting Irish are No. 2 all-time in NCAA Division I-A team victories with 767 over 112 seasons behind Michigan with 798; Nebraska is currently third at 747. Davie was defensive coordinator under Slocum at Texas A&M and held the same spot under Lou Holtz at UND prior to taking over the Notre Dame reins in 1997. Notre Dame enters the road test with a 0-2 record after falling at Nebraska 27-10 and 17-10 to Michigan State in South Bend last Saturday. A Sept. 15 encounter between Notre Dame and Purdue has been re-scheduled for Dec. 1.

**TEXAS TECH (2-0, 0-0) at 5 TEXAS (3-0, 0-0)** 6 p.m. (CDT), Darrell K. Royal-Memorial Stadium

(80,082), Austin, Texas, Fox Sports Net National Telecast

NOTES: This 50-game series started in 1928 and has been continuous since 1960. Texas leads the overall series 37-13, with a 23-5 record in games played in Austin. Since 1993 the series is deadlocked at 4-4, and that includes a 2-2 record for each team in Austin and in Lubbock. Seven of the last 10 meetings between the Red Raiders and Longhorns have been decided by 14 points or less. Since the Big 12 began UT holds a 3-2 edge over TTU. Last year the two bowl-bound teams fought to a 29-17 Longhorns' win in Lubbock. UT overcame a 17-16 deficit in the second half. Hodges Mitchell scored one of his two touchdowns late in the third quarter and rushed for a career-high 229 yards for the game. Kris Stockton booted five field goals for the contest for UT.

### Texas Tech Quick Hits

Texas Tech improved to 2-0 on the season with a 42-14 win against North Texas at Texas Stadium last Saturday. The Red Raiders jumped out to a 28-0 lead and never looked back. Texas Tech leads the Big 12 (seventh nationally) in pass offense with 325 yards per game. The Red Raiders' 68.4 percent pass completions is also tops in the league. Tech is second in the league and ninth nationally in pass defense. The Red Raiders hold teams to an average of 123.5 yards passing per game. Texas Tech has 40 or more points in each of its first two games. The Red Raiders have given up 44 combined points in their first two outings. Texas is averaging 46 points per game.

### Texas Quick Hits

Texas improved to 3-0 on the season with a 53-26 win at Houston last Saturday. The Longhorns rolled up 534 yards of total offense for the game. That marked the 10th time under Mack Brown UT has gone over the 500-yard plateau, and the 27th time over the 400-yard mark. Texas is 23-1 when scoring first and 27-5 when leading at half-time under head coach Mack Brown. Texas has scored 40 or more points 17 times in the Mack Brown era. The Longhorns are 152-1 all time when tallying 40 points or more. Texas has scored in a Big 12 record 242 straight games. That is the second longest active streak in the nation behind BYU's 326.

**4 NEBRASKA (4-0, 0-0) at MISSOURI (1-1, 0-0)** 11:30 a.m. (CDT), Memorial Stadium/Faurot Field (68,349), Columbia, Mo., Big 12 Game of the Week Regional Telecast

NOTES: Nebraska has won 22 straight against Missouri, and this includes 10 straight in Columbia, Mo. The last MU win (35-31 in 1978) caused Nebraska to tie Oklahoma for the Big Eight championship and a Huskers-Sooners rematch in the Orange Bowl. Nebraska played its all-time games Nos. 400 (1938), 600 (1959), and 900 (1985) vs. Missouri. The Tigers handed former Husker legend coaches Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne their first collegiate coaching losses. This series dates back to 1892 and has been continuous since 1922. Nebraska has been ranked in the Associated Press Top 10 in the last 19 meetings with Missouri and No. 1 in 2000, 1997 and 1983 during that span. Two of the last four meetings have been decided by seven points including the ESPN Instant Classic 45-38 overtime thriller in Columbia in 1997. The two teams played to a 20-13 contest the following year in Lincoln.

### Nebraska Quick Hits

Nebraska jumped out to a 21-0 lead and rolled to a 48-3 win against Rice last Thursday. The Huskers had a sea-

son-high 497 yards total offense for the game. The famed "black shirts" defense has given up just one touchdown in the last 10 quarters of play. NU has won six straight games dating back to last season. The Huskers longest winning streak under fourth-year head coach Frank Solich is seven games when NU opened 1999 with a 7-0 record. Nebraska raised more than \$50,000 at the Rice game for national relief fund effort for the Sept. 11 tragedy.

### Missouri Quick Hits

Missouri was idle last week and with the cancellations of Sept. 15 has not played since a 40-6 win versus Southwest Texas on Sept. 8. MU will take on Sept. 15 opponent Michigan State on Dec. 1. Missouri used two safeties, two blocked kicks and a solid running game to defeat Southwest Texas. The Tigers rushed for 238 yards against the Bobcats. MU's defense was solid as well versus Southwest Texas. The Tigers allowed 116 yards rushing, the fewest for a MU foe since the 1998 season (Bowling Green, 93 yards). MU head coach Gary Pinkel ranks 14th among active Division I-A football coaches in winning percentage, .656 (74-38-3). Pinkel earned his first win at MU against Southwest Texas Sept. 8.

**10 KANSAS STATE (2-0, 0-0) at 3 OKLAHOMA (3-0, 0-0)** 11 a.m. (CDT), Memorial Stadium (72,762), Norman, Okla., ABC National Telecast

NOTES: Kansas State has made a major dent in the Sooners' dominance in the 93-year-old series with five wins in the last 10 games. Oklahoma rolled to a 41-31 win at Manhattan last October and then had to edge the Wildcats 27-24 in the Big 12 title game to advance to down Florida State for the national championship with a 13-2 FedEx Orange Bowl win. OU put together one of Division I-A's longest series winning streaks at 34 from 1935-68 before KSU won 59-21 in Manhattan in 1969. The Wildcats notched a five-game (series-long) skein over the Sooners from 1993-97. Last year's Dr Pepper Big 12 Championship was the first neutral site meeting in the 85-game annal between the rivals.

### Kansas State Quick Hits

Two of the Big 12's most successful current head coaches (combined winning percentage of .684) square off Saturday; Snyder is second on the Big 12 active coaches' victories' list with 101. KSU has rushed for 617 yards in two games and stands first nationally with 308.5 yards per game. CNN.SI's Stewart Mandel found that Kansas State is the most overachieving team nationally over the 1996-00 period in terms of preseason rankings and final poll finishes with +28 points. The Wildcats' Josh Scobey goes for his fourth consecutive 100-yards-plus rushing game after gaining 147 vs. Tennessee in the '01 Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl, 165 at Southern California and 112 vs. New Mexico State last week with four TDs.

### Oklahoma Quick Hits

The Sooners bring the nation's longest Division I-A winning streak at 16 games into Saturday's meeting of Top 10 teams. The Sooners were 13-0 last season. Coach Bob Stoops was the consensus 2000 National College Football Coach of the Year. The Sooners enjoyed a 22-game winning streak over the Wildcats from 1971-92 before Snyder's crew edged OU 16-14 at Norman in 1993. Bob Stoops and brother, Mike, were assistant coaches for a total of 17 seasons at Kansas State under Snyder, and both played at Iowa when the current KSU head coach was an assistant at UI.

Information obtained from Big12sports.com



# Broncs face Longhorns in mid-season 'benchmark' contest, travel to Puerto Rico for December tourney

By Eladio Jaimez  
The Pan American

The UTPA men's basketball team aren't strangers to playing in big games. Just a few years ago the Broncs came within seconds of beating New Mexico State University who was ranked in the top 25 at the time.

Later that season the Gonzaga University Bulldogs hit a three pointer in the winding seconds, denying the Broncs of the upset.

This season will be no different.

Toward the end of the semester the Broncs travel north to take on the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers on December 1, and the Washington State Cougars four days later on the 5.

While everyone else is enduring cold temperatures during the month long Winter Break, the Broncs will fly south to San Juan, Puerto Rico and participate in the San Juan Shoot Out from December 20-22.

The Broncs' true test, though, will come on January 2 when they travel to Austin to battle the University of Texas Longhorns.

"I think this will be a good benchmark game," said head coach Bob Hoffman. "We try to make or schedule as tough as we can because that helps us."

The Longhorns aren't the first Big 12 program they go up against.

"We've played teams like Texas A&M and Kansas State as well," Hoffman added.

Hoffman said the UT athletic program is looked at, by many people in Texas, as a dominant one in the state, and expects Broncs fans to travel to Austin for support.

"A lot of people look at UT to be premier," Hoffman

said. "We're part of the same UT System, and being a sister school warrants a lot of interest."

Hoffman dismissed any possibility of the longhorns visiting The Fieldhouse anytime soon.

"The chances are very remote," he said. "Their window of open road games is so small because of TV and conference commitments."

Even though the Longhorns are a perennial powerhouse in the NCAA, and have experienced players, Hoffman feels his team will fare well against the Austin school.

"We have guys with some international experience," he said. "We have all sorts of different experience. We should play and mix it up very good with those guys."

Hoffman returns six guys from last years team only, including Mercedes native Gabriel Cortez, but says he has one of the best teams ever assembled in Broncs history.

"We're going to be very tough-minded," he said. "This team will accomplish a lot



of good things. They'll take us another step to where we want to be."

Hoffman faced the task of replacing stars like Brian "Beemer" Merriweather and Kyle "Colonel" Sanders.

Hoffman said Merriweather took part in the Phoenix Suns camp, but didn't get drafted. Merriweather hasn't made a decision, but is considering the option to play overseas.

Sanders moved to Canada and will finish school there, Hoffman said.

"It was a mutual agreement," he said. "He wanted to do something else. He was a good player and was great for our team."

Croatian Reggie Kuzet, Kwasinda Curtis and John Braxton completed their NCAA eligibility and are now finishing school, Hoffman said.

## Young team gains valuable experience, gives coach optimism

By Eladio Jaimez  
The Pan American

One way to describe head coach Dave Thorn's Lady Broncs volleyball team this year would be inexperienced.

However, with seven sophomores and two freshmen on the team and a sluggish 1-10 start, Thorn is optimistic about the team's future.

"With the young team we have a higher learning curve," Thorn said. "We'll be stronger in the end and should have regrouped by then."

The Lady Broncs leave for California today to take on Cal State Northridge on Friday and Cal State Fullerton on Saturday. They will complete their West Coast trip with a game against the University of California-Irvine on Monday.

Thorn said this trip will be a great chance to see teams outside this region.

"They're all solid teams," Thorn said. "We have a chance to see teams out of the Texas Louisiana area."

"It's a great chance to see where we stack up against other teams," he said. "We'll get to see how far we've come along."

Thorn said West coast teams are more outside oriented.

"They usually let their outside hitter carry the offense," he said. "Mid-West and East teams depend more on their middle blocker for the offense. They use up the middle a lot more."

Thorn said that despite their loss to New Mexico State University on Monday, the team gained momentum for this weekend's match-ups.

"It'll be key if we can carry our momentum from Monday throughout the weekend," he said. "We also need to compete hard and finish off the opponent when we have the opportunity."

He reiterated that experience has been key in their losses, but that the team is coming along.

"You can't teach experience," he said. "We just have to go through it [season] and learn as we go along."

In their loss to NMSU on Monday, sophomore Jaclyn Muszynski and freshman Sandy Darway led the way for the Lady Broncs.

Muszynski, a California native, led the team with 13 digs and added 13 kills. In an exhibition game against the Lady Broncs alumni last Friday she had 17 kills.

Darway, who is stepping in for sophomore outside hitter Winker Cruz, led the lady Broncs against NMSU with 16 kills and nine digs. In the alumni game she posted 15 kills.

"They're both good offensively and with ball control," Thorn said. "They're getting a lot of valuable experience and should be better athletes and players as they become upperclassmen."

Cruz and middle blocker Cynthia Kasper have been out three weeks with ankle injuries. Thorn expects them both to be back by next week.



**Jaclyn Muszynski**

Games played	38
Kills	101
Assists	13
Digs	108
Blocks	13



**Sandy Darway**

Games played	38
Kills	99
Assists	9
Digs	88
Blocks	3